

EDUCATION FOCUS

NEWSLETTER Q4 - 2023

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Minister of Education and Human Resources Development Hon. Lanelle Tanangada, right, Permanent Secretary Dr. Franco Rodie, left, and staff participating in the parade.

WELCOME MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) newsletter!

This edition features significant achievements of MEHRD in undertaking one of its key reforms, the Education Act 2023.

We are delighted to provide insightful articles on the development of the Education Act 2023. We hope that you find this edition informative and inspiring and that it will continue to enrich you.

Our commitment to providing valuable content remains unwavering, and we appreciate your continued support.

We encourage you to submit your thoughts, suggestions, and contributions for future editions. Your feedback is invaluable to us.

Thank you for your patience and support. We look forward to continuing the journey together.

Yours sincerely,
Minister of Education and Human Resources Development
Hon. Lanelle Tanangada

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HISTORIC MILESTONE IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

On Thursday 12th, October 2023, at 12:30 p.m., the eleventh Parliament passed the Education Bill 2023, a new era in the education sector that will be remembered for generations.

This means our education system is now guided by the new Education Act 2023. This legislation has been developed throughout the terms of six Ministers of Education, including the current Minister Hon. Lanelle Tanangada, that enacted the Education Act 2023. This is a legacy Hon Lanelle will be remembered for in years to come for her service to the education sector.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD) officially celebrated the passing of the Education Bill 2023 on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at the Pacific Crown Hotel.

The celebration commenced with a colourful parade led by Minister Lanelle and Permanent Secretary Dr. Franco Rodie. Also joining the parade are the MEHRD Senior Management Team, Education Providers, school leaders, students, and staff of MEHRD.

Highlights of the celebration included a drama depicting the educational journey from past, present, and beyond by St Nicholas College students and honouring the creation of history in the Solomon Islands education journey by the Hon. Lanelle Tanangada,

In her official address to mark the passing of the Education Bill 2023 on Wednesday 25th, October, Minister Lanelle said it was an honour for her to be part of the celebration.

“On 12th October, we made history. This is a day that marks a momentous milestone in the Solomon Islands' education history. I am so proud to say we now have an Education Act 2023,” a jubilant minister said.

The Education Act 2023 embraces a new vision and direction to advance the education sector, build capacity, and empower our future leaders. It provides clarity for those who administer education and all those who work together and support the education system.

Furthermore, it provides a contemporary framework from which to develop our education system to continue to improve access to the quality and management of early childhood, primary and secondary education, and the teaching profession.

The six Ministers for Education throughout the development of the Education Act 2023 were Hon. Dick Haámori, Hon. Dr. Derek Sikua, late Hon. John Moffat Fugui, Hon. John Dean Kuku, Hon. Aston Mewa and Hon. Lanelle Tanangada.



Education key partners joined the parade.



Selwyn College teachers took part during the Education Act 2023 celebration parade.



Deputy Secretary Strategic Service James Bosamata directing a drama depicting the Education Journey in SI from 1978-2023 and beyond.

MEHRD CELEBRATES A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT



Guests and representatives from Education Providers, school leaders, students, and churches cut the cake at the Education Act 2023 Celebration.

The Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development (MEHRD), through the support of the Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), celebrated one of its key reforms that has been under review and extensive consultation on the Education Act 1978 for over ten years.

The new Act effectively addresses gaps in the existing education system, as well as provides for improved delivery of education services at the ECE, Primary, and Secondary levels of education through schools to all Solomon Islanders. Furthermore, the new Act provides for clear lines of communication for better collaborative work and coordination between MEHRD and all education stakeholders, including Education Providers, schools, teachers, leaders, and school communities.

The new Education Act is sensitive to the expanding education system and is designed to be robust while also being flexible to respond to the current and future needs and aspirations of the people of Solomon Islands. This reform is the largest and most comprehensive change to the education system since independence.

As the education system of Solomon Islands continues to develop in the 21st century, the review of the old Act is necessary to enable a new Act that will reflect the current and future needs and aspirations of the people of Solomon Islands.

In recognition of the need to legitimize major developments in the Education Sector since independence, there was a growing need to review the old Act. The desire was to redevelop an Education Act that is not only cognisant of the growing education system but also focuses on and encourages systems that are more effective and efficient in delivering education services to all Solomon Islanders.

The review work was officially initiated on July 11, 2013, through the launch of the White Paper development team. Parliament eventually passed the White Paper on August 25, 2015. MEHRD subsequently conducted nationwide consultations between 2015 and 2020 to obtain opinions from education stakeholders and the general public on what should be considered for inclusion in the design and content of the new Education Bill, eventually becoming the new Act.

EDUCATION ACT 2023 FLASHBACK

August 8, 2023

MEHRD Minister Signed Notice of Presentation of Education Bill 2023

Minister of Education Hon. Lanelle Olandrea Tanangada signed the notice of presentation of the new Education Bill 2023 to Parliament at the Attorney General Chambers on August 8, 2023.

August 28, 2023.

Education Bill 2023 Introduced to the House for Second Reading

Minister of Education, Hon. Lanelle Tanangada introduced the much-anticipated Education Bill 2023 for a second reading in Parliament on **August 28, 2023**.

September 7, 2023.

MEHRD Senior Management Team concludes BLC inquiry into the Education Bill 2023

The Senior Management Team of MEHRD completed the inquiry into the Education Bill 2023 with the Bills and Legislation Committee (BLC) on September 7, 2023.

October 3, 2023

Second Reading of the Education Bill 2023

A report on the Education Bill 2023 was tabled to Parliament by the Chairman of the Bills and Legislation Committee (BLC) on October 3, 2023.

October 12, 2023

Parliament Passes Education Bill 2023

The much-anticipated Education Bill 2023 was passed in Parliament without amendments on October 12, 2023.

October 25, 2023

Minister Lanelle highlights the new Education Act 2023 guiding principles

Minister of Education Hon. Lanelle Olandrea Tanangada has highlighted ten guiding principles of the new Education Act 2023. She highlighted these during an official celebration to mark the passing of the Education Bill 2023 on October 25, 2023, at the Pacific Crown Hotel.

Permanent Secretary, Dr. Rodie is confident the Education Act 2023 will set strategies for improving educational quality in the country.

Permanent Secretary of MEHRD Dr. Franco Rodie is confident the Education Act 2023 will improve access to quality education and have a significant impact on learners in the country.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP TO LEAD IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATION LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK



From left, ELF-Technical Working Group members Richard Adomana, Charles Kadamana, Joash Maneipuri, Christine Swift, James Bosamata, Helen Rose, Freda Motu, Merrylyn Kodeleke, Gloria Funubana, and Christopher Sakiri during their first meeting.

The Education Legislation Framework Technical Working Group (TWG) will lead the implementation of the Education Legislation Framework 2023.

The TWG comprises Heads of Department and Officers from relevant MEHRD groups and divisions supported by advisers. Chaired by Deputy Secretary Strategic Services James Bosamata, the TWG will coordinate, plan, and guide the implementation of ELF. The TWG will also contribute to developing the ELF communication and socialization strategies and implementation.

The TWG meets fortnightly to map out priority activities needed for the commencement, socialization, and implementation of the Education Act 2023.

Members of the ELF TWG:

- Christopher Sakiri - Deputy Secretary of Education Services
- Freda Motu - Principal Policy Officer
- Richard Adomana - Manager of Planning
- Charles Kadamana - Manager of Communication
- Ali Kiko - Manager of Education Authority
- Julie Lilo - Director of School
- Merrylyn Kodoleke - Director Finance
- Gloria Funubana - Chief Accounts Officer
- Bryan Sida - Chief Admin Officer
- Rose Paia - Manager Curriculum
- Christine Swift - Education Legislative Drafter
- Helen Rose - Policy, Planning and Strategic Advisor
- Christina Bakolo - Manager Policy
- Joash Maneipuri - Education Legislative Framework Coordinator

IMMEDIATE TASKS AHEAD

With the commencement date of the Education Act yet to be decided, the task ahead is critically important. To ensure critical tasks are completed before the commencement of the Act, the Education Legislation Framework-Technical Working Group (ELF-TWG) is focused on priority areas required for an announcement by the Minister on the Commencement of the Education Act.

The immediate tasks included completing all subordinate documents, the appointment of the Solomon Islands Education Board (SIEB), the ELF 2024 Inception plan to be approved by the end of November 2023, and the proclamation.

At this time, all subordinate documents are completed and awaiting approval from the Minister. All subordinate documents signed by the Minister must be approved by the Cabinet and gazetted before the Minister makes a proclamation announcing the commencement date of the Education Act 2023.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND PS ACKNOWLEDGE ALL EDUCATION PARTNERS

Minister of Education and Human Resources Development Hon. Lanelle Tanangada and Permanent Secretary Dr. Franco Rodie acknowledged all education partners for their enormous contributions in the entire development of the Education Act 2023.

They expressed their acknowledgment during the celebration to mark the passing of the Education Bill 2023 on Wednesday 25th, October 2023 at the Pacific Crown Hotel.

They extend their acknowledgment to:

- The staff of the Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development
- National Education Board, Education Providers, Solomon Islands National Teachers Association, teachers, technical advisors and parents
- MEHRD Senior Management Team and Heads of Division
- Honiara City Council
- Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Rod Hilton
- New Zealand High Commissioner, His Excellency Jonathan Schwass
- Australia and New Zealand governments through the Education Sector Support Program
- Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers
- Bills and Legislation Committee
- Parliament
- ELF Technical Working Group
- Non-Government Organizations and key stakeholders.